

# All Saints' Anglican Church Hall

344-348 Church Street, Palmerston North

---

NZHPT Registration Number: 1254  
NZHPT Registration Type: Historic Place – Category II  
NZHPT Registration Date: 25/11/82  
City/District Council: Palmerston North City Council  
District Plan Status: Category 1



## Brief History

This hall began its life as Palmerston North's second Anglican church. Anglican services were first held in Palmerston North in 1872 and were conducted in a variety of venues including Snelson's store and the courthouse until, three years later, the first Anglican church was built. This small barn-like building was replaced six years later in 1881 by a second church. The original church was incorporated into the new church as the chancel. The architect is not known. The style is Victorian Carpenter Gothic, a simplified timber version of the Gothic style. The church's board and batten cladding is common for this style, used in New Zealand from the time of Bishop Selwyn. The timber posts and trusses are exposed on the interior. Building work was completed by Meyrick, Perrin & Oakley at a cost of £565, and the church was dedicated by Bishop Hadfield on 16 February 1882.

Substantial enlargements made to the building in 1891-2 and again in 1901 doubled the seating capacity from 300 to 600. The bell tower was removed sometime between 1904 and 1910.

The church eventually became inadequate to accommodate the growing congregation and in 1910 it was moved back on the site and reoriented to make way for a new church. Services continued to be held in the church until the present All Saints' was completed in 1914 and the old church was then converted to a two-storey Sunday School and church hall. The building was refurbished in 1978 and three years later a kitchen fire caused significant damage to the building, after which repairs costing \$30,000 and further renovation were carried out in 1981. Despite the modifications to the interior and exterior, the building remains a good representative example of the style. It is also Palmerston North's oldest church, and the oldest building within the inner city area.

---

*Principal Sources:*

Bowman, I & Kelly, M, *Palmerston North CBD Heritage Inventory*. Palmerston North, Palmerston North City Council, 2003.

NZHPT file, All Saints' Anglican Church Hall, Palmerston North, 12004-006.

Palmerston North City Library Photograph Collection, C96, C60, C105, Sq 152.